

GENERAL NOTES

A Swallow-tailed Kite in New Jersey.—On May 19, 1940, Gilbert Cant, Dave Fables, and I saw a Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*, at Edgar's Dock, on the north side of the Raritan River near Nixon, New Jersey. When the bird was first seen it was flying approximately northeast toward us. Several times it soared in circles of about an eighth of a mile radius, once passing within 150 feet of us. We could then distinguish the white underparts and the bluish-black colorings of its wings and tail.

According to Witmer Stone ("Bird Studies at Old Cape May," p. 269), there are six records of this species for New Jersey, the last record having been made in southern Cumberland County on June 4, 1893.—WILLIAM F. RAPP, JR., 130 Washington Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey.

Bald Eagle Nesting in Kentucky.—For many years no occupied nest of the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been known in Kentucky. One of the few published references to breeding eagles in the state is found in an article on the birds of Fulton County by Leon O. Pindar (*Wilson Bulletin*, 37, 1925:85.) in which he mentions several pairs that were nesting during the 1890's on Island No. 8 in the Mississippi River near Hickman, Kentucky. Consequently we heard with keen enthusiasm rumors of Bald Eagles nesting in Ballard County, Kentucky, near Wickliff. We are indebted to Captain R. C. Soaper, federal warden stationed at Henderson, for reports as to the actual location of the nest.

On June 28, 1941, the junior author visited the area of Swan Pond, four miles west of Wickliff in Ballard County, and directly across the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois. After considerable search in the heavy cypress growth at the west end of the 500-acre pond he was able to locate the nest, which at that late date was unoccupied. However two immature Bald Eagles and an adult bird were seen in the immediate vicinity, and local residents were unanimous in asserting that young had been reared in the last two seasons. Unfortunately the situation of the nest, high in a very large cypress, and well screened from below, was unsuited to photography.—BURT L. MONROE and ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Louisville, Kentucky*.

The Dance of the Sandhill Crane.—On May 2, 1939, at Portage Lake, Jackson County, Michigan, the following observations were made by Leonard Allison and the writer. The observations were made while lying in the sedge flats approximately 300 feet from a couple of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*).

When first seen the two cranes were quietly feeding along the moist banks of a shallow pond. Presently they ceased their feeding and retired a few feet to drier ground. One of the birds picked up a stick and dropped it quickly. The other bird became quite erect and slowly walked across the marsh with its neck very straight, but with the entire rigid neck and head swinging forward and backward. It gave the appearance of a crane moving forward with its head fastened by some invisible force which suddenly relaxed and let the stiff neck swing forward from its junction with the body, only to be temporarily held back again.

In the next stage of the dance the birds began bowing to each other and slowly flapped their wings. This presently developed into a drunken weaving motion with the birds reeling from side to side and also rocking to and fro. Finally they began jumping backwards, leaping into the air 2 or 3 feet, with their wings flapping and their legs dangling forward. The frenzy of this stage gradually subsided until the birds began bowing again, and both birds picked up sticks only to let them fall to the ground. The entire dance took about 3 to 4